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# Marshland Rural District Council

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1955

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

District Council Offices  
Alexandra Road,  
Wisbech.

G.B. HOPKINS.  
M.B. Ch.B. B.Pharm. D.P.H.



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MARSHLAND RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE:-

The Chairman (Mr. F. W. Deptford) The Vice Chairman (Mr. W. H. Kerkham) and the full Council.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority:-

Medical Officer of Health -

G. B. HOPKINS, M.B. Ch.B. B.Pharm. D.P.H.

also holds appointments of

Assistant County Medical Officer of Health.

School Medical Officer.

Medical Officer of Health Downham Market Urban District Council.

Medical Officer of Health Downham Rural District Council.

Senior Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor -

J. T. DEWHURST, C.R.S.I. M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector and Deputy Surveyor.

B. V. BRAYBROOK, C.R.S.I.





July, 1956.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE MARSHLAND RURAL  
DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I submit for your consideration my Annual Report on the sanitary circumstances, health and vital statistics for your district during the year ending 31st December, 1955.

In a year which saw the introduction of a positive National policy for slum clearance it is opportune to say a few words on the impact of such a policy upon the health of the community. Every general practitioner must have thought how much easier his task would often be if he were able to write a prescription for a house instead of for medicine. The diagnosis of anxiety neurosis, "nerves" or neurasthenia, is frequently attributable to the adverse effects of unsatisfactory living conditions especially in housewives whose lives are continuously circumscribed by these conditions. All the factors which go to making up a real home are potent in producing a background of tranquillity upon the basis of which life's adversities can be faced. Anxiety neurosis may be described as a faulty adjustment in a person's mental attitude to life. Every individual is endowed with a degree of mental robustness and his capacity to withstand the anxieties imposed by contemporary life depends upon the former power equalling or exceeding the latter. Any factor tending to increase anxieties beyond the individual's endowment of mental fortitude, whether it be marital unhappiness, frustrated ambition, bad living conditions or bad working conditions, tends to the production of anxiety neurosis. Having fallen victim the sufferer inevitably seeks an explanation in his physical self and soon finds himself in his doctor's surgery. The importance of this condition can be considered in terms of human suffering and of economics, the two are now inseparable in the welfare state.

Since the war, two general practitioners have published the results of independent investigations into the prevalence of anxiety neurosis in their practices during the course of a year. One found that thirty per cent, the other fifty per cent of his patients attending surgery did so predominantly or exclusively by reason of anxiety neurosis. One's experience of general practice would lead to ready acceptance of such figures, and one is obliged to yield pride of place to this condition





amongst all human ailments in this country.

The National Health Service costs roughly five hundred millionpounds a year and sickness benefit roughly eighty five millionpounds a year. One is tempted to hazard a guess at how much neurosis is costing.

Some time ago the Minister of Health announced his concern over the finding that about twenty per cent of general hospital beds were continuously occupied by cases sent in for investigation and ultimately revealed as cases of anxiety neurosis. Assessing the total of general hospital beds at about three hundred and fifty thousand, and the cost per bed in round figures to be fifteen pounds per week, these in-patient investigations are costing about fifty million pounds a year. Added to this is the cost of treating severe cases in mental hospitals.

General medical services provided by general practitioners are currently costing about fifty five million pounds, and the cost of prescribing about fifty one million pounds. Assessing the incidence of neurosis in general practice at about forty per cent, a further sum of about forty million pounds may be said to be expended upon anxiety neurosis. This by no means exhausts the bill for this condition, and it is probably true to say that this purely mental form of ~~ill~~ health costs the National Health Service at least one hundred million pounds a year. Added to this there is the cost of sickness benefit attributable to it, probably at least forty per cent of the total, or a further forty million pounds a year. The combined cost of this condition might well amount to one hundred and fifty million pounds a year.

In so far as bad housing causes this condition, even if it accounts for only one tenth part of it, an annual sum of fifteen million pounds is being expended wastefully as a result of it. The figure may in fact be a great deal higher, but there can be no doubt that it is a very large sum, and that viewed in this light, slum clearance may fairly be described as a long term policy of national economy. It is a strange paradox that the Rent Restriction Act operates so as to ensure that other sub-standard properties fall to slum property standards as slum clearance proceeds, and that any progress in the conservation of health and wealth must stem from the number of steps forward exceeding the inevitable steps backward.

During the summer an outbreak of Sonne Dysentery occurred in fruit pickers bunks, without serious results, though the incidence served to underline the health hazards which arise when ordinary city folk bent on a profitable holiday in the country are obliged to mix with nomadic people accustomed to a very low standard of living. The Byelaws applicable to fruit pickers bunks cannot effect such situations, which must be left to the discernment of individual farmers. Your district is





fortunate to secure the services of so many students whose hygiene standards are high, and, supported by observance of the hygiene standards laid down by the Byelaws, are unlikely to create problems in the maintenance of health.

Twenty five per cent of the male deaths from cancer were attributable to cancer of the lungs.

During the year nine cases of poliomyelitis were notified, of whom five suffered some degree of residual paralysis. There is at last an answer to this disease and it is to be hoped that parents will avail themselves of the opportunity to have their children immunised against poliomyelitis next autumn, when the efficacy of the British vaccine has been conclusively demonstrated.

G. B. HOPKINS.

Medical Officer of Health.





## SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

Area in acres.....	56,652
Population in 1931.....	15,350
Population in 1951 (Census).....	16,567
Population in 1955 estimated mid year home population...	16,390
Number of separate dwellings occupied 1955.....	5,284
Rateable Value 1955.....	£109,641
Product of a penny rate 1955.....	£208

### LIVE BIRTHS      233

### Birth Rate Marshland Rural

### England & Wales

### Administrative County.

	M	F
Total	106	127
Legitimate	99	120
Illegitimate	7	7

14.6

15.0

14.78

### STILL BIRTHS (Rate per 1,000 live and still births)

	M	F
Total	4	1
Legitimate	4	1
Illegitimate	0	0

### Rate Marshland Rural

### England & Wales

### Administrative County.

21

23.1

21.24

### DEATHS (all causes)

	M	F
Total 127.	69	58

### Rate Marshland Rural

### England & Wales

### Administrative County.

8.0

11.7

12.07

### Deaths (from Puerperal causes)

Puerperal and post abortive sepsis.....	NIL
Other Puerperal causes.....	1





# VITAL STATISTICS Cont'd.

## INFANT MORTALITY (Rate per 1,000 live births)

	M	F	<u>Rate</u> <u>Marshland Rural</u>	<u>England</u> <u>&amp; Wales</u>	<u>Administrative</u> <u>County.</u>
Total	1	2			
Legitimate	1	2	12.9	24.9	19.37
Illegitimate	0	0			

## DEATHS from -

Cancer (all ages).....	22
Measles (all ages).....	NIL
Whooping Cough.....	NIL
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age).....	NIL

## SECTION A

### NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area in acres.....	56,562.
Population (mid year estimate).....	16,390

DEATHS One hundred and twenty seven deaths have been assigned to the district, a decrease of thirty five from the figure for 1954. The table affords a comparison between death rates for the previous five years with the average death rates for all rural districts in England and Wales:-

Marshland Rural District		All Rural Districts
1954	10.3	10.6
1953	8.4	10.3
1952	7.19	10.1
1951	10.8	11.1
1950	9.7	10.6

BIRTHS Two hundred and thirty three births have been assigned to the district, a decrease of ten from the 1954 figure.

MATERNAL MORTALITY One death occurred where the interval between maternal condition and death was stated to exceed twelve months.





INFANT MORTALITY Three infants died during the year.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT One burial was carried out by the Council under the provisions of the above Act.

## SECTION B

### 1. GENERAL MEDICAL SERVICES

Norfolk Executive Council 54, Prince of Wales Road, Norwich.  
Clerk, R.J.Cobb Esq.,

### 2. EAST ANGLIAN REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD

Senior Administrative Medical Officer - Dr. J.B.Ewen, M.D.  
D.P.H. Croft Holme, 117, Chesterton Road, Cambridge.

#### (a) GENERAL

- (1) Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, Norwich.
- (11) West Norfolk and King's Lynn Hospital, King's Lynn.
- (111) Jenny Lind Hospital, Norwich.
- (1V) St. James' Hospital, King's Lynn. (for chronic sick).
- (V) North Cambs Hospital, Wisbech.

#### (b) MATERNITY

- (1) Bowthorpe Maternity Hospital, Wisbech.
- (11) West Norfolk and King's Lynn Hospital (Maternity Unit)
- (111) Mill Road Hospital, Cambridge.

#### (c) INFECTIOUS

- (1) County Isolation Hospital, East Dereham.
- (11) Isolation Hospital, King's Lynn.
- (111) Peterborough Isolation Hospital.
- (1V) Cambridge Isolation Hospital.

#### (d) SANATORIA

- (1) Kelling Sanatorium, Holt.
- (11) Bramblewood Sanatorium, Holt.

#### (e) MENTAL

- (1) St Andrews Hospital, Norwich.
- (11) Hellesdon Hospital, Norwich.
- (111) Heckingham Hospital, Norwich.
- (1V) Little Plumstead, Norwich.





## SECTION B Cont'd

### 3. MATERNITY SERVICES

- (a) District Nurses showing areas served (at time of compilation of this report).

Nurse Stevens, Terrington St. Clement (northern part) and Terrington Marsh.

Nurse Mobbs, Walpole St. Andrew, Peter and Cross Keys area, Terrington St. Clement (southern part) Terrington St. John, Fen End, Trinity Road, Marshland St. James Tilney St. Lawrence.

Nurse Blishen, Tilney All Saints and Clenchwarton.

Nurse Criss, West Walton, Walsoken, Marshland St. James and Emneth.

Nurses O'Leary and Nolan, Upwell and Outwell.

### (b) MATERNITY

Beds in Regional Hospital Board Establishments

(1) Stow Hall Maternity Home, Stow Bardolph.

(2) Bowthorpe Maternity Home, Wisbech.

### 4. AMBULANCE AND HOSPITAL CAR SERVICE

With effect from 1st April, 1954 the hospital car service for the Marshland area is conducted by King's Lynn Ambulance Station and the Local Health Office, The Howdale, Downham Market.

The Marshland area is jointly served by the Downham Market and King's Lynn Ambulances.

Infectious Disease cases are conveyed by East Dereham, Wisbech and King's Lynn Ambulances.

### 5. RED CROSS AND ST. JOHN MEDICAL LOAN DEPOTS.

(a) Terrington St. John - Mrs. D. Greer.

(b) Walpole St. Peter - Mrs. Woods.

(c) Terrington St. Clement - Mrs. Wilcox, The Lodge, Terrington St. Clement.

(d) Outwell - Mrs. Roper, Eason House, Outwell.

(e) Three Holes, Mrs. Jerney, "Roysain", Three Holes.





6.

COUNTY MEDICAL SERVICES

(a) INFANT WELFARE CENTRES

- (1) Terrington St. Clement 3rd Tuesday 2-4 p.m.

The Assistant County Medical Officer of Health attends at the above Session.

In addition Village Infant Welfare Centres are held at the following villages - Emneth, Marshland St. James, Tilney St. Lawrence, Walpole St. Peter and West Walton. These centres are conducted by the Local Nurse/Midwives and Health Visitors, and are visited periodically by the Assistant County Medical Officer.

(b) SCHOOL MINOR AILMENT CLINICS

- (1) Terrington St. Clement Secondary School  
(every Tuesday during term)
- (11) Upwell Modern Secondary School 1st 3rd and 5th  
Thursdays during term.

The School Nurse attends at the above sessions and the Assistant Medical Officer at one session per month.

(c) SCHOOL DENTAL CLINIC

Upwell Modern Secondary School (closed - no Dental Clinic available).

(d) HOME HELP SERVICE

The County Home Help scheme is doing excellent work and Home Helps are at present available for the following parishes and villages - Terrington St. John, Terrington St. Clement, Upwell, Outwell, Walpole St. Andrew and St. Peter, Tilney St. Lawrence, Clenchwarton, Islington, Emneth and Marshland St. James.

7.

VENEREAL DISEASE CLINIC

West Norfolk and King's Lynn Hospital.

MALES: Tuesdays and Fridays - 7 p.m.

FEMALES AND CHILDREN: Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 3 p.m.





8. DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

- (1) Disinfection of premises is carried out by the Senior Sanitary Inspector's staff.
- (11) Disinfestation of bedding, clothing etc., which cannot be carried out by this Department, are sent to the East Dereham Isolation Hospital.

9. LABORATORY SERVICE

- (a) Public Health Laboratory, Isolation Hospital, Bowthorpe Road, Norwich. Under the direction of Dr. L. M. Dowsett.
- (b) Public Analyst, W. Lincolne Sutton Esq., F.R.I.C. Redwell Street, Norwich.

SECTION C

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

SMALL POX

NIL

SCARLET FEVER

There were 5 cases during the year which were isolated at home, there were no deaths.

DIPHTHERIA

There were no deaths from, or reported cases of diphthoria. The table gives the yearly number of children who either received full courses of primary immunisation or booster doses to reactivate their primary immunity.

1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
183	202	236	211	163	189

The downward trend in numbers of children immunised has been reversed.





## PNEUMONIA

Five cases were notified.

## ERYSIPELAS

One case was notified.

## MEASLES

Eighty eight cases were notified. There were no deaths. It is not possible to assess the acute and chronic illness which stems from this disease.

## WHOOPING COUGH

Thirty cases were notified.

## INFECTIVE JAUNDICE

Seven cases were notified.

## ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS

Nine cases were notified. Five suffered residual paralysis there were no deaths.

## TUBERCULOSIS

Twelve cases of Pulmonary and one of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified. There were no deaths.

## CLOSURE OF SCHOOLS

No schools were closed.



SECTION D

STATISTICAL TABLES 1955

Table No. 1.

Causes of Death

Causes of Death	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis, respiratory . . . . .		1	1
Tuberculosis, other forms . . . . .			
Syphilitic diseases . . . . .			
Diphtheria . . . . .			
Whooping Cough . . . . .			
Meningococcal infection . . . . .			
Acute Poliomyelitis . . . . .			
Measles . . . . .			
Other infective and parasitic diseases . . . . .			
Malignant Neoplasm, stomach . . . . .	2	1	3
Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus . . . . .	3	0	3
Malignant Neoplasm, breast . . . . .		2	2
Malignant Neoplasm, uterus . . . . .		4	4
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms . . . . .	7	3	10
Leukaemia . . . . .			
Diabetes . . . . .		2	2
Vascular Lesions of nervous system . . . . .	5	7	12
Coronary disease, angina . . . . .	12	7	19
Hypertension with heart disease . . . . .	1	2	3
Other heart diseases . . . . .	10	12	22
Other Circulatory diseases . . . . .	2	1	3
Influenza . . . . .			
Pneumonia . . . . .	4	4	8
Bronchitis . . . . .	8	3	11
Other diseases of the respiratory system . . . . .		1	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum . . . . .	2	0	2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea . . . . .			
Nephritis, Nephrosis . . . . .	1	1	2
Hyperplasia of prostate . . . . .			
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion . . . . .		1	1
Congenital malformation . . . . .			
Other defined and ill defined diseases . . . . .	4	5	9
Motor vehicle accidents . . . . .	3		3
All other accidents . . . . .	4	1	5
Suicide . . . . .	1	0	1
Homicide and operations of war . . . . .			
All causes	69	58	127





# DEATH RATE OF CHILDREN

## CAUSES OF DEATH OF CHILDREN UNDER ONE YEAR - 1955

Table No. 2.

Causes of Death	Age in Weeks						Total
	1	2	3	4	5	5 - 52	
Congenital malformations ..							
Disease of early infancy ..							
a. Congenital abnormality							
b. Premature birth .. ..							
c. Injury at birth .. ..							
d. Atelectasis .. .. .							
e. Others .. .. .							
Disease of the Respiratory System .. . . .	1						1
Disease of Nervous System							
Diseases of Digestive System							
Tuberculosis Disease .. ..							
Infectious Disease .. ..						1	1
Syphilis .. .. .							
Overlaying .. .. .							
Violence .. .. .							
All other causes .. .. .	1						1
	2					1	3





# NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

1955

Table No. 3.

## Notification in Age Groups

Disease	Ages												Total
	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65+	
Measles	-	7	9	12	13	45	1	-	1	-	-	-	88
Whooping Cough	1	1	5	3	7	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	30
Pneumonia		1	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	-	-	-	5
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Bacillary Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	1	-	-	-	5
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Malaria (Clinical relapsed)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	1	-	1	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	5
Non-Paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	4
Infective Jaundice	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	-	-	1	1	-	7
Paratyphoid B.	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
TOTALS	1	9	15	15	23	72	5	1	7	2	1	-	151





# MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

1955.

Table No. 4.

(Other than Tuberculosis)

Disease	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	T
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	1	-	1	5
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	19	7	-	-	2	8	36	13	1	2	-	-	88
Whooping Cough	1	5	7	-	1	12	2	2	-	-	-	-	30
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Pneumonia	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Infective Jaundice	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	7
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	1	-	2	-	9
Paratyphoid B.	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Dysentery	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	5
Totals	22	15	9	1	6	21	40	23	4	3	5	2	151



100

100

100

100

# NEW CASES AND DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS 1955

Table No. 5

Age in Years	NEW CASES				DEATHS				Total
	Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Respiratory		Non-respir		
	Male	Fem.	Male	Fem.	Male	Fem.	Male	Fem.	
- 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
- 5	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
-15	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-25	3	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	6
-35	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
-45	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-55	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	7	5	-	1	-	-	-	-	13





REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR  
SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report for the year ending  
31st December, 1955.

WATER SUPPLY

The year saw the completion of the preliminary stages and preparation of details for the proposed extension of the water mains to provide piped supplies to many properties, and the whole scheme was submitted to the Minister by the Engineer to the Wisbech and District Water Board.

The existing piped supplies continue to be controlled by the Wisbech and District Water Board who are responsible for the chemical and bacteriological analysis of the water and for maintaining purity and sufficiency.

Where no piped supply is available dwellings still rely on rain water collected from roofs as the only natural source of supply.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The cesspool and privy vault emptying service continued to operate very satisfactorily. The table belows shows the work completed during the year. I would like to record here that no complaints were made by any of the persons who used this service, but many reports were received of appreciation for the efficient manner in which the work was carried out.

The sewage disposal plants to all the Council's Housing Estates were emptied of sludge accumulations regularly and quite frequently during the year in an endeavour to improve the effluent discharging into dykes.

Year	Cesspools	Privy Vaults	Sewage Disposal Plants
1952	481	459	51
1953	685	394	54
1954	739	377	49
1955	771	368	45





A survey was made of the northern area of the district in conjunction with the staff of the County Public Health Department to consider the general requirements for the promotion of a sewage scheme to cover the populated areas of Terrington St. Clement and Clenchwarton. The problem of the disposal of effluent was considered to be the largest problem and it was proposed to carry out preliminary experimental work on the subject in 1956.

#### RIVER POLLUTION PREVENTION ACTS

The whole of the district continued to be covered and controlled by the two River Boards of the Nene and Ouse

#### ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

One heavy infestation of a dwelling was reported where home conditions were exceptionally clean. A thorough investigation was made and the infestation was proved to originate from second hand furniture. A weeks constant treatment with insecticide cleared the infestation.

#### MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

Three new licences were issued under the Public Health Acts for moveable dwellings. In all cases where applied for the existing licences were extended for a further period of twelve months. Inspections were made of the dwellings licenced and all were found to be in a clean, tidy and satisfactory condition.

#### FRUIT PICKERS BUNKS

Frequent inspections were made of seasonal workers bunks and vans etc., Informal action was taken in three cases in an endeavour to improve conditions. A fairly satisfactory state was maintained throughout the season.

#### PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACTS

The refuse tips are treated by direct labour and infestations are kept under control, any infestations found on routine inspections are promptly dealt with and advice is readily given to all persons reporting infestations as to the up-to-date methods of treatment





## PUBLIC CLEANSING

The Refuse Collection Service by direct labour continued satisfactorily during the year. Permission was obtained to use a private tip in the Wisbech Rural District and this has well served the southern area. The problem of tipping will still occur from time to time and it is expected that Mr. P.C.H. Johnson's tip at Terrington St. Clement will become full in 1956.

Road cleansing was carried out by the Norfolk County Council who are the Highway authority.

## VERMINOUS PERSONS AND PREMISES

No action was necessary under Section 85 of the Public Health Act 1936 for the removal of verminous persons.

Three dwellings were reported as being infested with vermin and were disinfested by the staff of the Department.

## HOUSING

### NEW COUNCIL HOUSES

The following new properties were completed by Contract during 1955 and occupied by tenants selected by the Council.

Walpole Cross Keys	8 Bungalows
West Walton	4 Bungalows
Outwell	6 Bungalows
Upwell	8 Bungalows
Clenchwarton	4 Bungalows
Terrington St. Clement	3 Bungalows
Tilney St. Lawrence	10 Houses
Clenchwarton	6 Houses
Outwell	4 Houses
Tilney All Saints	2 Houses

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Total number of properties	55
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## PRIVATE ENTERPRISE

40 new houses were built by private enterprise. Many older houses were repaired and improved and the progress of building development in the district was well maintained.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### MILK SAMPLING

All sampling is carried out by the County Public Health Department.

### FOOD PREMISES AND HANDLERS

The bakehouses registered in the district were inspected at regular intervals and informal action in one case for improved conditions and repair was found necessary. Informal action in three cases of insufficient sanitary amenities to licensed premises was necessary and the Companies responsible carried out the required work.

### MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

The ten private slaughterhouses licensed in 1954 continued to operate. Seven of these handle oxen, sheep and pigs but the remainder have ceased to handle oxen and sheep. In two cases the slaughterhouses were improved and have reached a very high standard of cleanliness, efficiency, and storage facilities.

In one case informal action was necessary to improve conditions but this was carried out without difficulty. Inspections of carcasses were maintained to the maximum during the year and I can confidently say that a good standard exists and that everything possible was done to ensure cleanliness and good sound meat free from disease is retailed throughout the district.

Carcase meat and offal condemned as unfit for human consumption and voluntarily surrendered was as follows:-

Pork (Carcase meat)	468 lbs	(Offal)	92 lbs
Beef (Carcase meat)	110 lbs	(Offal)	104 lbs
Mutton (Offal only)	28½ lbs		





66 investigations were carried out into cases of alleged unsound food. The following were destroyed as being unfit for human consumption:-

Processed meat	12 lbs
Processed fruit	23 lbs
Processed milk	14 oz.
Processed vegetables	18 lbs

#### INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Inspections made.....	36
Disinfections.....	10

Approximately 15 additional visits were made when Sonne Dysentery occurred to fruit pickers in the district in July and August 1955. 45 faecal samples were collected and despatched to the Public Health Laboratory for examination.

#### NUISANCES

Inspections made.....	102
Notices served (Informal).....	16
Notices served (Statutory).....	1
Abatements.....	15

In one case of Nuisance, statutory proceedings were taken and a Court Order was obtained for the abatement of such nuisance.

#### NEW BUILDINGS

Inspections made.....	324
New dwellings completed.....	40

#### SCHOOLS

Inspections made.....	10
-----------------------	----

#### KNACKERS YARD

Licences granted.....	1
Inspections made.....	4

#### FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS (Factories Act 1937)

Inspections made.....	44
Number of informal notices.....	3
Prosecutions.....	NIL





## PETROLEUM LICENCES

(a)	Inspections made.....	4
(b)	Renewal licences approved.....	118
(c)	New licences approved.....	4

## HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1955.

### 1. INSPECTION OF DWELLINGHOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

1.	(a)	Total number of houses inspected for housing defects and categorization under Slum Clearance Proposals.....	340
	(b)	Number of inspections made on complaint of occupiers with a view to remedying of defects (included in above).....	56
2.	(a)	Number of dwellings found to be in such a <del>state</del> so dangerous or injurious to health to be considered by the Council under Slum Clearance Proposals in a five year programme.....	284
	(b)	Number of dwellings found not to be in all respects <del>fit</del> for human habitation.....	102

### 2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICE.

	Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or its Officers.....	23
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### 3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

(a)	Proceedings under appropriate sections of the Housing Act 1936:-	
(1)	Number of dwellings in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs...	NIL
(2)	Number of dwellings which were rendered fit after service of formal notice.....	NIL
(a)	by owners.....	NIL
(b)	by Local Authority in default of owners.....	NIL





3. (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.
- (1) Number of dwellings in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied..... NIL
  - (2) Number of dwellings in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice..... NIL
    - (a) by owners..... NIL
    - (b) by Local Authority in default of owners..... NIL
- (c) Proceedings under Section 11 and 25 of the Housing Act 1936:
- (1) Number of dwellings in respect of which Demolition Orders were made..... 10
  - (2) Number of dwellings in respect of which Closing Orders were made or not subsequently re-let by undertaking made by the Owners..... 14

J. T. DEWHURST.

Senior Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.







